

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time-Jan. 21, 2018

Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas K. Diaz, Pastor
Joe Olsen, Deacon--Phone: 536-7332
Liz Black, Office Manager
Char Mayclin, Religious Education
Robert Ito, Youth Ministry
Stephanie Bodi, Parish Council President



Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 p.m. (vigil)

Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday-Saturday 8:15 a.m.

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, as a community united in the spirit of Christ, are called to grow in our relationship with Him, to proclaim His Gospel and to serve the needs of others. We are striving to become a more worshipping, loving, welcoming, and serving faith community.

Office Information:

New office Hours

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9-1:30 p.m.
Website: www.st-elizabeth-seton.com
Religious Education Office: (707) 585-8821
Youth Ministry Office: (707) 585-2905

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism: 1-month notice for preparation class (on the last Sunday of the month at noon) for infant baptism. Please contact Deacon Joe, 536-7332.

Reconciliation: After the Tues. evening Mass, after the Saturday morning Mass and by appt.

Marriage: 6-month notice. Please contact Fr. Tom or Deacon Joe.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact Fr. Tom.

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True to God's Word The First Reading poses a puzzle that has bedeviled philosophers and theologians. God commands Jonah to tell the people of Ninevah these words: *Forty days more and Ninevah shall*

be destroyed.

Now, the people of Ninevah believed that God's words are true, and they repented. And God was pleased with them for believing his words and repenting. BUT—God's words seem to be false. At any rate, forty days after Jonah's telling the people God's words, the city is still standing. So here is the puzzle: could God say words that are false, and could God be pleased with the people of Ninevah for believing a falsehood?

Philosophers and theologians have had a lot to say about this puzzle. But here is a simple thought. When God's words call you, God puts your life at a cross-road. You can ignore Him and continue stubbornly with your old life, as if God didn't really matter, or didn't really care what you did, or maybe didn't really exist at all. Or you can open yourself to God. You can respond to Him with a willingness to trust and obey. But if you do this, you will be leaving your old life behind for a new life that might well have been unimaginable to you beforehand. You won't be who you were before. You will be a new person, in God and for Him.

The people of Ninevah respond to God's call in this second way. They believe God's words, and will to be obedient to God, and that is why they repent their former ways. As a result, they become very different from the people they had been. The whole city becomes a very different city from the one it had been. There are, then, *two* ways in which the Lord's words to Ninevah can be true. Ninevah can be destroyed either because God demolishes the city or because the people cease to be the Ninevah that they were. Either way, the old Ninevah will no longer exist.

Therefore, God's words to Ninevah *were* true. When the people of Ninevah responded to God's words with trust and obedience, they ceased to be what they were—and the old Ninevah was destroyed.

God's words are always true, and God is always true to His word. Eleonore Stump

Question: Is your call be to bring the Good News wherever you are, in whatever you do?

Today's Readings

Reading I: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Reading II: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Stewardship

Collection: \$3,518.00

Facility Maintenance: \$1369.00

This weekend, January 21, there will be the National second collection taken up for the Church in Latin America.

Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat., Jan. 20	5:00 p.m.	+Alvie Vaughn
Sun., Jan. 21	8:30 a.m.	no intention
	10:30 a.m.	For the people
	4:00 p.m.	Filipino-Santo Nino Mass
Mon., Jan. 22	8:15 a.m.	Int of Richard & Judith Krona
Tue., Jan. 23	6:30 p.m.	Int of Jim and Evelyn Estrella
Wed., Jan. 24	8:15 a.m.	Int of Gene & Bonny Grenache
Thu., Jan. 25	8:15 a.m.	Int of Donald & Jane Cha
Fri., Jan. 26	8:15 a.m.	+Patricia Banducci
Sat., Jan. 27	8:15 a.m.	no intention
	5:00 p.m.	+Joy Gee
Sun., Jan. 28	8:30 a.m.	For the people
	10:30 a.m.	+Ibrahim Diab



There will be an **additional Mass today Jan. 21 at 4 p.m.** for the **20th Annual Santo Niño Celebration.** The celebration will begin at 3:30 p.m. here at St.

Elizabeth Seton with a procession followed with Mass at 4 p.m., and a simple reception afterwards. The Santo Niño Celebration is very popular in areas of the Philippines and other Pacific Rim countries. Fr. Alvin Villaruel of St. Francis Solano Church will be the celebrant and assisted by Fr. Tom and Deacon Joe. The celebration is sponsored by the Santo Niño Prayer Group of St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park.

Santo Niño de Cebú) is a Roman Catholic title of the Child Jesus based on a religious relic icon in Cebu City of the Philippines. The image is venerated as miraculously by many Filipino Catholics. It is one of the oldest Christian relics in the Philippines, originally given in 1521 as a gift by explorer Ferdinand Magellan to Rajah Humabon and his wife when he landed on the island.

Parish Events this Week

- Tues. Jan. 23** 3:45 p.m. Children's Faith Formation
5:00 p.m. Pre-Confirmation 6th Grade
- Wed. Jan 24** noon 4th Wednesday Potluck.
7:00 pm **No Class for Confirmation**
7:00 p.m. RCIA-Social Justice
- Thu. Jan 25** 1:00 p.m. Soup with St. Mark
- Sat. Jan. 27** 5:45 pm Knights of Columbus Crab Feed

Sat. Jan. 27, 2018 The Knights of Columbus Columbus Council 9090 will be having their Crab Feed. Tickets are on sale in the parish office this week or by calling Linda Marlatt @ 771-0003 or Ron Ciarasso @ 529-806. Prices are: \$45 per person, children 8-12 \$15, with children under 7 free. Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. and the menu will be: **Crab**, Pasta Pesto, Clam Chowder, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert.



Congratulations
on your
Wedding
Anniversary!

Next Sunday, January 28 at the 10:30 a.m.

Mass we will ask God to continue to bless the following couples celebrating their wedding

anniversaries in the month of January:

Over 50 years: Richard & Judith Krona, Jim & Evelyn Estrella, Gene & Bonny Grenache, Donald & Jane Cha,

40 years or more: Dennis & Tina Harrington, Arturo & Francia Rico, Mike & Karen Lobao, Manuel & Cecilia Morales

30 years or more: Mike & Susan Harrow, Al & Grace Feliciano, Robert & Melody Ottolini

20 years or more: Bert & Carole Vega, Victor & Sandy Brazil, Marc & Silvia Langan, Eric & Annabelle Pring

19 years or less: Chuck & Cindy Antonetti, Aaron & Lisa Lopez, Dave Carlsen & Toni Rosalino, Joe & Denise Miller

Events Outside the Parish

Sign of Hope Mass on Thursday, January 25 at 6 p.m. All are invited to attend a Mass offered for those affected by the fires. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Robert Vasa at St. Apollinaris Church in Napa on Thursday, January 25 at 6 p.m. A reception at St. Apollinaris will follow the Mass. Please RSVP to Fr. David Jenuwine at jenuwine@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 27, 14th Anniversary of the Walk for Life West Coast. Join thousands of others in a peaceful, prayerful witness for life. The bus leaves from St. James in Petaluma at 7:30 a.m. for the 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in San

Francisco. The Rally will begin at the Civic Center Plaza at 12:30 p.m. After the Rally, there will be a procession down Market Street towards Justin Herman Plaza. Return time is about 4:30 p.m., and seats are \$20. **To reserve your place, email: youth@srdiocese.org or call Rebecca Brown 707-795-1050.** Please dress warmly, have comfortable walking shoes and bring a bag lunch.

All Married and Engaged Couples are invited on January 27, 2018, to the natural family planning class taking place in Santa Rosa. These English-speaking classes are from 7-9 p.m. For more information, you may call (707) 542-3635 or visit The Couple to Couple League website at www.ccli.org.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Valentines Day Fundraiser Event, Feb. 3, 2018. 8pm to midnight. In support of Our Lady of Guadalupe, tickets are: \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. Mary A. Furth Center, 8400 Old Redwood Hwy., Windsor. Purchase tickets at their Parish Office or call 707-530-9088.

7th Annual Polenta and Stew Dinner by St. Rose Young Ladies Institute #132, Saturday Feb. 10 at 6:30 pm, No-Host Bar/ 7:00 Dinner. St. Rose Parish Hall, 322 Tenth Street, Santa Rosa. Adults: \$20 Children 7-12 \$8 and under 7-Free. For tickets contact Elizabeth Black 584-1914. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Catholic Charities has openings for two positions: Resource Connector, Bilingual; and Receptionist, Bilingual. Contact Catholic Charities at www.srcharities.org/about/career for additional information about these positions and other exciting opportunities at Catholic Charities. Applications can be found at the above-mentioned website.

Pastor's Corner

The meetings this past week with our bishop and the priests of the diocese were quite fruitful. We had a two-day presentation on "The Four Levels of Happiness" from the Spitzer Institute, who design to help every single person on their journey in life. Simultaneously this begins to shape an entire culture in a positive new way — to deeper trust, to become more effective and to communicate better, ultimately making your home, work, parish, or diocese a better place. I hope to talk about this visionary leadership in coming weeks.

At a finance meeting last week, I brought up the need for landscaping. The idea would be to have three stages, with the front of the church facing Snyder Lane and the north side of our hall taking priority as stage 1. I realize that some people of the parish worked hard on the landscaping a few years ago but things have not worked out. We will be looking for three or four bids to bring about a practical

beatification of the facility for the next few years. I want to thank all those who gave to the maintenance collection last week.

Pope Francis: The Gospel message is a wellspring of joy... A joy that is contagious, passing from generation to generation, a joy that we have inherited," the Pope said Jan. 18.

"Like Mary at Cana, let us make an effort to be more attentive in our squares and towns, to notice those whose lives have been 'watered down,' who have lost – or have been robbed of – reasons for celebrating."

"Let us be attentive, then, to all situations of injustice and to new forms of exploitation that risk making so many of our brothers and sisters miss the joy of the party."

Pope Francis celebrated Mass on the morning of his last day in Chile, before flying to Peru to begin the second part of his Jan. 15-22 trip to the two South American countries.

The Mass was held on the Lobito beach in the northern Chilean town of Iquique, which is bordered by the Atacama Desert to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

In his homily, Francis reflected on the story of the Wedding at Cana, relating the festivity of that occasion to the "festive spirit" with which northern Chileans live out their faith.

"I have come as a pilgrim to join you in celebrating this beautiful way of living the faith," he said. "Your patronal feasts, your religious dances – which at times go on for a week – your music, your dress, all make this region a shrine of popular piety."

He also pointed out how the party doesn't remain inside the Church, but that they turn "the whole town into a party."

Quoting Pope Paul VI's encyclical on evangelization, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, Francis praised their ways of celebrating the faith and God through song and dance, which creates "interior attitudes rarely observed to the same degree elsewhere: patience, the sign of the cross in daily life, detachment, openness to others, devotion."

To continue this joyful atmosphere, we can take a lesson from the actions of Mary at the wedding feast, he said. Mary, "like a good mother," is attentive to everything going on around her and "doesn't sit still."

Noticing that something threatens to hamper the celebration or "water it down," Francis said, "she approaches her Son and tells Him simply: 'They have no wine.'"

"In the same way, Mary passes through our

towns, our streets, our squares, our homes and our Hospitals... She notices all those problems that burden our hearts, then whispers into Jesus' ear and says: Look, 'they have no wine.'"

The Pope explained that we allow Jesus to continue this miracle when we turn our communities and hearts "into living signs of His presence, which is joyful and festive because we have experienced that God is with us, because we have learned to make room for Him in our midst."

This experience is a "contagious joy and festivity that lead us to exclude no one from the proclamation of this Good News," he stated.

It's also a "festive hospitality, he underlined, "for we know very well that there is no Christian joy when doors are closed; there is no Christian joy when others are made to feel unwanted, when there is no room for them in our midst."



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